

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 5

Serial No.: 09/918,989

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Title: CLAMPING CASE

Attorney Docket No. 100.204US01

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on December 5, 2003 as well as the art cited. Claims 1-12 and 136-140 are pending in this application.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests that a copy of the 1449 form, listing all references that were submitted with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 15, 2003, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next official communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 6-7, 9-11, 137 and 140 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cantrell, (U.S. Patent No. 5,642,264). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a case for confining a first circuit card to a particular location within a housing. The case includes a pair of opposing end walls and a pair of opposing side walls coupled to the end walls. The pair of end walls and the side walls form a slot. The case further includes an actuator disposed within the slot, the actuator engageable with the first circuit card for clamping the first circuit card between the actuator and one of the pair of opposing end walls of the case.

With respect to claim 1, the office action states that "Cantrell discloses a case (201, Fig. 5) for confining a first circuit card to a particular location within a housing, the case (201) comprising: a pair of opposing end walls (see the two horizontal walls of 201 as shown in figure 5); a pair of opposing side walls (see the two vertical walls of 201 as shown in figure 5) coupled to the end walls; wherein the pair of end walls and the side walls form a slot; and an actuator (301/303, Figs. 5-6) disposed within the slot, the actuator (301/303) engageable with the first circuit card (601) for clamping the first circuit card (601) between the actuator and one pair of opposing end walls of the case (201)."

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 6

Serial No.: 09/918,989

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.204US01

Title: CLAMPING CASE

After review of Cantrell, Applicant does not find that Cantrell teaches or suggests the case of claim 1. There is no discussion of a case for confining a first circuit card to a particular location within a housing as found in claim 1. Applicant finds no discussion of a housing. Further the Examiner refers to Figure 5 and end walls and side walls, Applicant finds no reference numerals or reference to side or end walls as found in claim 1. Applicant requests that the Examiner qualify what he is referring to with respect to the side and end walls. Also Applicant does not find that Cantrell teaches or suggests the pair of end walls and the side walls form a slot as found in claim 1. Further, Applicant does not find that Cantrell teaches or suggests an actuator disposed within the slot, the actuator engageable with the first card for clamping the first circuit card between the actuator and one of the pair of opposing end walls of the case as found in claim 1. The Examiner refers to card guide assemblies 303 and 301 as actuators. In contrast, Cantrell discusses "The second type card guide assemblies 301 and 303, when installed, function as partitions at selected slot locations 206." Col 5, lines 11-21 Applicant does not find that the card guide assemblies 301 and 303 an actuator as found in claim 1. As a result, Applicant asserts that claim 1 is not anticipated by Cantrell and should be allowed.

Claims 2-6 and 136-138 depend from and further define allowable claim 1 and for at least the reasons provided above, should also be allowed. Applicant may not have put forth responses to additional rejections to said claims at this time. However, the Applicant reserves the right to address said additional rejections to said claims if a further response is required.

Claim 7 is directed to a case for confining a pair of circuit cards to different locations within a housing. The case includes a pair of opposing side walls and first and second end walls, a partition disposed between the first and second end walls that divides the case into a first slot bounded by a portion of each of the side walls, the partition, and the first end wall and a second slot bounded by another portion of each of the side walls, the partition, and the second end wall, the first and second slots each containing one of the circuit cards, and an actuator engageable with the circuit card in the first slot for clamping the circuit card in the first slot, the partition, and the circuit card in the second slot between the actuator and the second end wall.

With respect to claim 7, the office action states that "Cantrell discloses a case (201, Fig. 5) for confining a pair of circuit cards to different locations within a housing, the case (201)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 7

Serial No.: 09/918,989

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.204US01

Title: CLAMPING CASE

comprising a pair of opposing side walls (see the two vertical walls of 201 as shown in figure 5) and first and second end walls (see the two horizontal walls of 201 as shown in figure 5); a partition (210) disposed between the first and second end walls that divides the case (210) into a first slot bounded by a portion of each of the side walls, the partition, and the first end wall and a second slot bounded by another portion of each of the side walls, the partition, and the second end wall; the first and second slots each containing one of the circuit cards (see the corresponding connector 205, in each slot of case 201, which will be mated with a circuit card, see col. 8, lines 30-65); and an actuator (301/303, Figs. 5-6) engageable with the circuit card (601) in the first slot for clamping the circuit card (601) in the first slot, the partition, and the circuit card in the second slot between the actuator (301/303) and the second end wall.

Applicant refers the Examiner to the arguments presented above with respect to claim 1 above. In addition, Cantrell does not teach or suggest first and second slots each containing one of the circuit cards or an actuator engageable with the circuit card in the first slot for clamping the circuit card in the first slot, the partition, and the circuit card in the second slot between the actuator and the second end wall as found in claim 7. Applicant does not find that the card guide assemblies 301/303 are an actuators as found in claim 7 and does not find that the card guide assemblies 301/303 clamp circuit card 601, partition 210 and a second circuit card between card guide assemblies 301/303 and a second end wall as found in claim 7. As a result, Applicant asserts that claim 7 is not anticipated by Cantrell and should also be allowed.

Claims 8-12 and 139-140 depend from and further define allowable claim 7 and for at least the reasons provided above, should also be allowed. Applicant may not have put forth responses to additional rejections to said claims at this time. However, the Applicant reserves the right to address said additional rejections to said claims if a further response is required.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 8, 12, 136 and 139 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cantrell (U.S. Patent No. 4,547,833). Applicant notes that the referenced patent number 4,547,833 conflicts with the named patent "Cantrell" listed as 5,642,264 used in the 35 U.S.C.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 8

Serial No.: 09/918,989

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.204US01

Title: CLAMPING CASE

§102(b) rejections above. Applicant is assuming that the Examiner is referring to Cantrell 5,642,264.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With respect to claims 2, 136 and 139, the office action states that "Cantrell does not teach or suggest that the actuator is a resilient element or cam. The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is known to provide a resilient element in the slot of the case for engaging the circuit card. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the case of Cantrell by including an actuator is a resilient element or a cam in the slot of the case for rotatively mounting and securing the circuit card to the case."

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion and requests that the Examiner cite a reference in support of his position in accordance with MPEP § 2144.03.

As discussed above, claims 2 and 136 depend from and further define allowable claim 1 and for at least the reasons provided above should also be allowed.

With respect to claim 8, the office action states that "it recites limitations similar to claim 2. Thus, it is rejected for the same reasons."

With respect to claim 12, the office action states that "it recites limitations similar to claim 5. Thus, it is rejected for the same reasons."

As discussed above claims 8, 12 and 139 depend from allowable claim 7 and for at least the reasons provided above should also be allowed.

Claims 4-5, 11 and 138 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cantrell in view of Su (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0141153).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

With respect to claims 4-5, 11 and 138, the office action states that "Cantrell does not teach the case or circuit card is thermally coupled to the housing, and a heat sink is disposed between the case and the housing. Su teach a case (3) is thermally coupled to the housing (32), and a heat sink (44) is disposed between the case (3) and the housing (32) (see Col. 2, lines 14-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Cantrell by including a heat sink is disposed

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 9

Serial No.: 09/918,989

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.204US01

Title: CLAMPING CASE

between the case or circuit card and the housing so that the case is thermally coupled to the housing as taught as Su for releasing the heat being generated from the case and the housing.”

As discussed above, the Examiner has not identified a housing with respect to Cantrell and refers to mounting frame 32 as the housing in Su. Claims 4-5 depend from and further define allowable claim 1 and for at least the reasons provided above should also be allowed. Further, claims 11 and 138 depend from allowable claim 7 and for at least the reasons provided above should also be allowed.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 10

Serial No.: 09/918,989

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.204US01

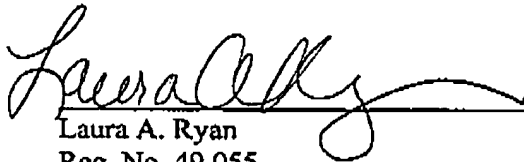
Title: CLAMPING CASE

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 and 136-140 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 332-4720.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5 May 2004

Laura A. Ryan
Reg. No. 49,055

Attorneys for Applicant
Fogg and Associates, LLC
P.O. Box 581339
Minneapolis, MN 55458-1339
T - (612) 332-4720
F - (612) 332-4731